

OFFICE OF PESTICIDE SERVICES (OPS)
CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, REGISTRATION & TRAINING SECTION (CLRT)

Subject of Policy: Supervision of Registered Technicians (including government employees and not-for-hire individuals)

1. Registered technicians are, by definition in the Virginia Pesticide Control Act, certified to apply general use pesticides unsupervised. They are also certified “to apply restricted use pesticides under the direct supervision of a certified commercial applicator.” (§ 3.1-249.27)
2. To become a registered technician, an applicant must first receive a minimum of 20 hours of on-the-job training under the direct on-site supervision of a certified commercial applicator (2 VAC 20-51-50. A. 1.). In addition to this hands-on training, the applicant is also required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of study of the information in the most current edition of the Core Manual. This total of 40 hours of training must be documented on the Registered Technician Application by the commercial applicator that provided the required training.
3. § 3.1-249.46.B. of the Code of Virginia (part of the Virginia Pesticide Control Act), relating to licensed pesticide businesses, states “Such business shall employ a certified commercial applicator who is responsible for (i) the safe application of the pesticides and (ii) providing recommendations for the use of pesticides.” This section of the law is the basis for holding the commercial applicator(s) of a pesticide business responsible for the actions of registered technicians employed by the pesticide business.
4. The Virginia Pesticide Control Act does not require supervision of registered technicians by a commercial applicator when a pesticide business license is not required and only general use pesticides are used. Example: A government-employed or not-for-hire registered technician applying a general use pesticide in the performance of their normal job duties is not required to be supervised by a certified commercial applicator.
5. As certified applicators, registered technicians can be held legally responsible for their own actions when applying general use pesticides.

Authority: 2 VAC 20-51-50.A.1.

Date: 5/20/03